

## Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 200630Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9258

INFO: RUSBKR/AMCONSUL KARACHI 2698

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY KABUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 2403

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: NASRULLAH KHATTAK PICKED AS PPP/QML

NOMINEE IN PESHAWAR BY-ELECTION

REF: ISLAMABAD 1752

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM CONSUL, PESHAWAR:

1. LAST WEEK PRIMIN BHUTTO TOOK ANOTHER STEP TOWARD SOLIDIFYING POSITION OF NASRULLAH KHATTAK AS HIS NEW VICEROY IN NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE WHEN HE CHOSE HIM TO BE COALITION CANDIDATE OF PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY AND QAIYUM MUSLIM LEAGUE IN APRIL 6 BY-ELECTION FOR PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY SEAT FROM PESHAWAR CITY LEFT VACANT BY DEATH OF HAYAT SHERPAO. NASRULLAH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN SELECTED TO BE PPP LEADER IN PROVINCE (REFTEL), AND IT NOW CONSIDERED FOREGONE CONCLUSION HE WILL BE INSTALLED AS NWFP CHIEF MINISTER ONCE GOVERNOR'S RULE IS LIFTED.

2. AS EXPECTED, PRIMIN'S SELECTION OF NASRULLAH KHATTAK TO CONTEST SHERPAO'S SEAT RECEIVED THE BLESSING OF ABDUL QAIYUM KHAN, CENTRAL INTERIOR MINISTER AND LEADER

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OF THE QML. FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, HOWEVER, BHUTTO'S

DECISION HAS NOT BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY MANY OF QAIYUM'S FOLLOWERS IN PESHAWAR. IN FIRST PLACE, THEY FEEL THAT SINCE PESHAWAR CITY IS TRADITIONAL MUSLIM LEAGUE STRONGHOLD, SOMEONE FROM THEIR PARTY SHOULD HAVE BEEN NOMINATED AS JOINT CANDIDATE OF PPP AND QML. SECONDLY, THEY RESENT FACT THAT PRIMIN DID NOT EVEN MAKE GESTURE OF CONSULTING WITH PESHAWAR MUSLIM LEAGUE ORGANIZATION BEFORE CHOOSING CANDIDATE. FINALLY, THEY (AN MANY OTHER INDEPENDENT CITY LEADERS) ARE DISGRUNTLED AT PROSPECT OF SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE PESHAWAR REPRESENTING CITY IN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY. RECALLING WITH SOME DISGUST THAT THE LATE HAYAT SHERPAO, WHOSE HOME WAS NEAR CHARSADE, MADE ALMOST NO EFFORT TO RESOLVE MANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF CITY WHILE SERVING IN ASSEMBLY, THEY ARE DOUBTFUL THAT NASRULLAH, WHO HAILS FROM NOWSHERA TEHSIL, WILL BE ANY IMPROVEMENT.

COMMENT: WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT OPPOSITION FROM THE BY-ELECTION (SEPTEL), NASRULLAH KHATTAK NOT LIKELY TO HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY WINNING ELECTION BY LARGE MARGIN OVER REMAINING UNKNOWN CANDIDATES LEFT IN FIELD. DISSIDENT MUSLIM LEAGUERS WILL THEREFORE NOT BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE RESULTS OF ELECTION.

3. FAILURE OF PRIMIN TO USE MORE FINESSE IN DEALING WITH MEMBERS OF PESHAWAR MUSLIM LEAGUE, HOWEVER, RAISES QUESTION OF HOW BHUTTO EXPECTS TO ESTABLISH POLITICAL BASE FOR HIMSELF IN FRONTIER. PESHAWAR HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND STILL REMAINS ESSENTIALLY AN ANTI-NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY CITY-PROVIDING BOTH INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP AND VOTES TO COMBAT WALI KHAN'S POWER AND INFLUENCE. BY FAILING TO USE CONCILIATORY TACTICS IN DEALING WITH MUSLIM LEAGUERS, PRIMIN HAS FURTHER ALIENATED IMPORTANT BLOC OF VOTERS WHO SHOULD BE AMONG HIS STAUNCHEST ALLIES.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PK, (KHATTAK, NASRULLAH)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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